

## **VISIONS PROPOSAL**

### **Guiding Principles**

Visions is a proposal to overhaul the current system for funding county administered human service programs in Wisconsin. Several other groups are and will be looking at reforming various human service program areas. The following Guiding Principles are intended to guide these groups in the development of the funding mechanisms for each program area.

- The human/social service system will be publicly administered at the local level.
- There will be consistent statewide expectations in all human service program areas, with clearly defined quality outcomes to be achieved and clearly established criteria for measuring achievement of these outcomes. The obligations of the state and counties will be clearly defined.
- There will be consistent statewide criteria that defines what functions counties are required to provide and who will be entitled to receive services. This may include functional\* and financial eligibility criteria for the program area, with funding included to do these eligibility determinations. A court ordered service or placement assumes the individual is eligible for service. .
- Actuarial sound rates will be developed through an independent rate setting process to provide average rates per person or function with annual revision based on actuarial sound data.
- Funding formulas will also be developed to address needs that can't be measured by person or function (e.g., Prevention Programs, Information and Referral, etc.).
- Funding sources will be integrated to the degree possible to reduce gaps in service and provide flexibility in meeting individual needs.
- All rates will be funded through an agreed upon percentage split between state and counties.
- Eligibility and/or mandated functions will be impacted by the level of state and federal funding available. Rates will reflect the cost of providing services, independent of available funding. Rates should never be adjusted to fit available funding. If there is insufficient funding to serve all eligible individuals at established rates, legislative action will be required to increase funding, or adjust functional or financial eligibility, mandated county functions or entitlement criteria based on input from counties, advocates and the department.
- The system will retain the ability of counties to provide and pay for services to individuals that do not meet the state eligibility criteria if they so choose.
- The system will encourage and support consumer centered care.
- The system will remove any disincentives to collaboration.

\*Functional criteria may include the individual's functional ability or functional ability of the family in a case of child protection.

- All citizens of the state should be guaranteed the same basic level of services. Therefore, full implementation of these concepts in any particular program area will occur statewide within specified timeframes.

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